—Encourage locational dispersal of pig iron making facilities.

—Setting up of linkage Committee to provide coal and iron ore linkages to the prospective entrepreneurs for the production of pig iron.

—Encouraging creation of capacities for the manufacture of merchant coke, for use by the pig iron producers.

**Accidents in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

4242. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, since it went into production; and

(b) what is the total loss of production therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The first major unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant viz. Coke Oven Battery was commissioned in September, 1989. The details of accidents since then are as follows:—

| | Reportable | Fatal |
|---|---|---|
| VSP Employees | 461 | 4 |
| Contractor's Employees | 20 | 38 |

(b) While there has been no production loss which could be directly attributable to the accidents, however, that did at times result in industrial relations problems in the Plant. The consequent loss in production was as under:—

| Item | Quantity (in tonnes) |
|---|---|
| (i) Coke | 1433 |
| (ii) Sinter | 45065 |
| (iii) Hot Metal | 19228 |
| (iv) Liquid Steel | 14492 |
| (v) Pig Iron | 5268 |
| (vi) Billets | 9124 |
| (vii) Wire Rod | 5604 |

**Mini Steel Plants**

4243. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mini Steel Plants in the country at present, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Mini Steel Plants are still facing acute crisis due to the rising prices of raw materials like Hot Bricketted Iron (HBI) and Sponge Iron; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The requisite information is annexed as Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The duty on imported steel melting scrap which is a major raw material for mini steel plants has been reduced in January, 1992 from 35 per cent to 10 per cent. The resultant decrease in the landed cost of imported scrap has also brought down the prices of sponge iron and Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI).

**Statement**

| Sl. No. | State/Union Territory | Number of Mini Steel Plants |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 8 |
| 2 | Assam | 2 |
| 3 | Bihar | 6 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Chandigarh | 1 |
| 5 | Delhi | 2 |
| 6 | Gujarat | 6 |
| 7 | Haryana | 13 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 4 |
| 9 | Kerala | 1 |
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 2 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 12 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 14 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 31 |
| 14 | Orissa | 1 |
| 15 | Punjab | 8 |
| 16 | Pondicherry | 3 |
| 17 | Rajasthan | 7 |
| 18 | Tamil Nadu | 6 |
| 19 | Uttar Pradesh | 25 |
| 20 | West Bengal | 23 |
| | Total | 175 |

**Rourkela Steel Plant**

4244. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Birla Technical Services has also been awarded modernisation scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Birla Technical Services does not produce a single pin or nut-bolt;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the assignment to Birla Technical Services;

(d) whether it is a fact that if contract proposed to be awarded is for supply of machines only from manufacturing companies avoiding middle agencies, it would be cheaper; and

(e) if so, whether Government are determined to avoid four layer sub-contractors and reduce the modernisation cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. For the indigenous packages already ordered for Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation, no order has been finalised on M/s. Birla Technical Services (BTS) by RSP, SAIL. However, for the package of Raw Material Handling System for Phase-II modernisation order has been finalised on M/s. Heavy Engineering Corporation of India Limited (HEC), Ranchi, who in turn have engaged M/s. BTS as their sub-contractor.